

Milton knocks out power to millions and spawns tornadoes across Florida. At least 5 dead



This drone image provided by Kairat Kassymbekov shows flooding from Hurricane Milton in Tampa, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press
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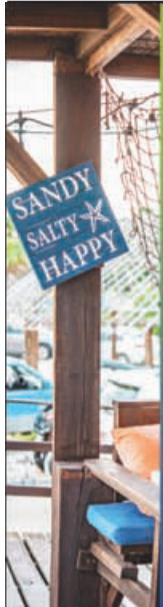
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Milton knocks out power to millions and spawns tornadoes across Florida. At least 5 dead

By JULIO CORTEZ, KATE PAYNE and HAVEN DALEY
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— Hundreds of Florida residents were rescued Thursday from the aftermath of Hurricane Milton after the storm smashed through coastal communities where it tore homes into pieces, filled streets with mud and spawned a barrage of tornadoes that killed at least five.

Arriving just two weeks after the misery wrought by Hurricane Helene, the system also knocked out power to more than 3 million customers, flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off a baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

But many people also expressed relief that Milton wasn't worse. The hurricane spared Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialized.

The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall late Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane in Siesta Key, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Tampa. Damage was widespread, and water levels may continue to rise for days, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said it was not "the worst-case scenario."

"You face two hurricanes in a couple of weeks — not easy to go through — but I've seen a lot of resilience throughout this state," the governor said at a briefing in Sarasota.

He said he was "very confident that this area is going



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, center, speaks during a news conference in front of a St. Lucie County Sheriff's parking facility that was damaged by a tornado spawned ahead of Hurricane Milton destroyed it, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Fort Pierce.

Associated Press

to bounce back very, very quickly."

South of Tampa, Natasha Shannon and her husband, Terry, felt lucky to be alive after the hurricane peeled the tin roof off their cinder block home in Palmetto. They spent the night in a shelter with their three children and two grandchildren after she pushed them to leave.

"I said, 'Baby, we got to go. Because we're not going to survive this,'" she said.

They returned to find the roof torn into sheets across the street, shredded insulation hanging from exposed ceiling beams and their belongings soaked.

"It ain't much but it was ours," she said. "What little bit we did have is gone."

The worst storm surge appeared to be in Sarasota County, where it was 8 to 10 feet (2.5 to 3 meters) — lower than in the worst place during Helene. The

storm also dumped up to 18 inches (45 centimeters) of rain in some areas.

At least 340 individuals and 49 pets have been rescued in ongoing search-and-rescue operations, DeSantis said Thursday afternoon.

After flying over some of the hard-hit areas, the governor said many of the homes that went up in recent years withstood the storm: "Our buildings that were built in the last 20 or 30 years, they did very well."

Officials in the hard-hit Florida counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota and Lee urged people to stay home, warning of downed power lines, trees in roads, blocked bridges and flooding.

Just inland from Tampa, the flooding in Plant City was "absolutely staggering," according to City Manager Bill McDaniel, who estimated the city received 13.5 inches (34 cm) of rain.

"We have flooding in places and to levels that I've never seen, and I've lived in this community for my entire life," he said in a video posted online Thursday morning.

The tiny barrier island of Matlacha, just off Fort Myers, got hit by both a tornado and a surge, with many of the colorful buildings in the fishing and tourist village sustaining serious damage. Tom Reynolds, 90, spent the morning sweeping out four feet of mud and water and collecting chunks of aluminum siding torn off by a twister that also picked up a car and threw it across the road.

Elsewhere on the island, a house was blown into a street, temporarily blocking it. Some structures caught fire. Reynolds said he planned to repair the home he built three decades ago.

"What else am I going to do?" he said.

In contrast, city workers on Anna Maria Island were grateful not to be wading through floodwaters as they picked up debris Thursday morning, two weeks after Helene battered buildings and blew in piles of sand up to 6 feet (1.8 m) high. Those piles may have helped shield homes from further damage, said Jeremi Roberts of the State Emergency Response Team.

"I'm shocked it's not more," city worker Kati Sands said as she cleared the streets of siding and broken lights. "We lost so much with Helene, there wasn't much

left."

The storm slammed into a region still reeling from Helene, which flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage.

Power was knocked out across much of the state, with more than 3.4 million homes and businesses without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

The fabric that serves as the roof of Tropicana Field — home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg — was ripped to shreds by fierce winds. Debris littered the field, but no injuries were reported.

Jessie Schaper, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne, Florida, said it was too early to know exactly how many tornadoes touched down or how strong they were.

The five tornado deaths happened in the Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, where homes were destroyed, authorities said.

Speaking at a White House briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said there were reports of as many as 10 fatalities from tornadoes, but he cautioned that the number was tentative. □

Immigrants brought to the U.S. as children ask judges to keep protections against deportation

By KEVIN MCGILL and

JACK BROOK

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Immigrants who built lives in the United States after being brought here illegally as children were among more than 200 demonstrators who gathered Thursday outside a federal courthouse in New Orleans, where three appellate judges heard arguments over the Biden administration's policy shielding them from deportation.

At stake in the long legal battle playing out at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is the future of about 535,000 people who have long-established lives in the U.S., even though they don't hold citizenship or legal residency status and they could eventually be deported. The case is likely to wind up at the Supreme Court.

"I live here. I work here. I own a home here," said María Rocha-Carrillo, 37. She traveled from her home in New York to join the demonstration and was on the front row of a packed courtroom as the hearing started.

She said she was brought to the U.S. at age 3 when family members immigrated from Mexico, where she was born.



Nina Perales, vice president of litigation for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, speaks to DACA supporters after appearing in federal appeals court in New Orleans to defend the policy on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

She could not get a teaching certificate until the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program allowed her to build a career in education.

Opponents of DACA, chiefly Texas and eight other Republican-led states, have said in court arguments and legal briefs that hundreds of millions of dollars in health care, education and other costs fall on states when immigrants are allowed to remain in the

country illegally.

A key element of the arguments before the appeals panel is whether lead plaintiff Texas has shown that it has standing to bring a lawsuit and whether a lower court judge in Texas had authority to issue a nationwide ruling.

DACA supporters argued that Texas hasn't shown that the costs it cites are traceable to the policy and, thus, hasn't shown that it has standing. Judge Stephen Higginson, ques-

tioning Joseph Mazzara of the Texas Attorney General's Office, noted that 22 states have said they benefit from the contributions of DACA recipients, who are known as "Dreamers."

"How could a single judge tell all 22 other states who are so grateful for these people that actually they've all got to leave the United States?" Higginson asked. "How does a single judge have that authority?"

However, Judge Jerry Smith

said he was doubtful that Texas lacks legal standing, "I don't understand how you get anywhere with that argument," Smith told Brian Boynton, who was arguing for the Biden administration.

An earlier 5th Circuit ruling fought held that Texas did have standing. Boynton said the Supreme Court has since raised the bar for states to prove standing, but Smith said the precedents Boynton cited don't contain unequivocal language that would require the appeals court to back off its previous finding.

It was unclear when or how the panel Smith, nominated to the 5th Circuit by former President Ronald Reagan; Edith Brown Clement, nominated by former President George W. Bush; and Higginson, nominated by former President Barack Obama will rule.

The case will almost certainly wind up at the Supreme Court.

Obama first put DACA in place in 2012, citing inaction by Congress on legislation aimed at giving those brought to the U.S. as youngsters a path to legal status and citizenship. Years of litigation followed. President Joe Biden renewed the program in hopes of winning court approval. □

Biden tells Trump to 'get a life, man' and stop storm misinformation

By JOSH BOAK and WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday publicly admonished Donald Trump, telling his predecessor to "get a life, man" and try to help people impacted by a pair of devastating hurricanes rather than spreading misinformation about the federal response.

Speaking at the White House on the government's work to address Hurricanes Milton and Helene, Biden condemned the "reckless, irresponsible and relentless disinformation and outright lies that continue to flow."

The White House, and Biden personally, have spent days decrying Trump for making false claims about the disaster response, including that federal funding is being diverted for use on people in the country illegally and that such assistance is capped at \$750. The \$750 is an immedi-

ate need disbursement, Biden explained, to cover urgent requirements like food, diapers and baby formula.

"That \$750 that they're talking about, Mr. Trump and all those other people know it's a lie to suggest that's all they're going to get," Biden said. "It's just bizarre. They got to stop this. They're being so damn un-American with the way they're talking about this stuff."

Asked if he planned to speak with Trump to urge him to stop, Biden said he wouldn't, but followed that with a message delivered directly into television cameras: "Mr. President Trump, former President Trump, get a life, man."

Help these people."

At one point Biden suggested that first responders trying to save lives have been subjected to "death penalties," though it was unclear whether he meant to say "death threats." □



President Joe Biden speaks and gives an update on the impact and the ongoing response to Hurricane Milton, in the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

A hurricane scientist logged a final flight as NOAA released his ashes into Milton's eye

By JOHN RABY
Associated Press

As an award-winning scientist, Peter Dodge had made hundreds of flights into the eyes of hurricanes almost 400. On Tuesday, a crew on a reconnaissance flight into Hurricane Milton helped him make one more, dropping his ashes into the storm as a lasting tribute to the longtime National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radar specialist and researcher.

"It's very touching," Dodge's sister, Shelley Dodge, said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press. "We knew it was a goal of NOAA to make it happen."

The ashes were released into the eye of the hurricane Tuesday night, less than 24 hours before Milton made landfall in Siesta Key near Sarasota, Florida. An in-flight observations log, which charts information such as position and wind speed, ended with a reference to Dodge's 387th and final flight.

"He's loved that aspect



In this image released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a NOAA crew on a reconnaissance flight, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, into the eye of Hurricane Milton in the Gulf of Mexico, gather before dropping a package containing the ashes of Peter Dodge, an award-winning scientist who made almost 400 hundreds flight into the eyes of hurricanes, as a lasting tribute to the longtime radar specialist and researcher.

Associated Press

of his job," Shelley Dodge said. "It's bittersweet. On one hand, a hurricane's coming and you don't want that for people. But on the other hand, I really wanted this to happen."

Dodge died in March 2023 at age 72 of complications

from a fall and a stroke, his sister said.

The Miami resident spent 44 years in federal service. Among his awards were several for technology used to study Hurricane Katrina's destructive winds in 2005. He also was part of the

crew aboard a reconnaissance flight into Hurricane Hugo in 1989 that experienced severe turbulence and saw one of its four engines catch fire.

"They almost didn't get out of the eye," Shelley Dodge said.

Items inside the plane were torn loose and tossed about the cabin. After dumping excess fuel and some heavy instruments to enable the flight to climb further, an inspection found no major damage to the plane and it continued on. The plane eventually exited the storm with no injuries to crew members, according to NOAA.

A degenerative eye disorder eventually prevented Dodge from going on further reconnaissance flights. Shelley Dodge said NOAA had kept her informed on when her brother's final mission would occur and she relayed the information to relatives.

"There were various times where they thought all the pieces were going to fall in place but it had to be the right combination, the research flight. All of that had to come together," she said. "It finally did on the 8th. I didn't know for sure until they sent me the official printout that showed exactly where it happened in the eye." □

A former DEA agent is convicted of protecting drug traffickers

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent in Buffalo, New York, was convicted of corruption Thursday following a second trial on charges he used his position to protect drug traffickers he believed were associated with organized crime.

Jurors found Joseph Bongiovanni, 60, guilty on seven of the 11 counts he faced. Prosecutors said Bongiovanni, for at least a decade, shielded childhood friends who became drug dealers and other suspects with ties to organized crime, tipping them off to investigations and falsifying DEA reports. He was accused of taking at least \$250,000 in bribes that prosecutors said he used for necessities, as well as trips and

other luxuries.

"This jury determined he was a corrupt federal agent," Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Tripi said at a news conference after the verdict, "and he violated his oath and duties to protect those that he should

have been investigating and arresting."

The case cast a harsh light on the DEA's supervision of agents amid a string of corruption scandals at the agency. Bongiovanni is among at least 16 DEA agents brought up on fed-

eral charges since 2015. Many of the cases resulted in prison terms, including two former DEA supervisors sentenced in a Miami bribery scandal involving intelligence leaks to defense attorneys. Bongiovanni was convicted of four counts of obstruction of justice, as well as single counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and making false statements to law enforcement.

Jurors acquitted him of a bribery charge, and additional fraud, conspiracy and obstruction charges.

Bongiovanni's attorney, Robert Singer, said he would appeal.

Thursday's verdict comes after a jury in April convicted the former Buffalo agent of lying to federal authorities about a DEA file

he kept at home, but could not reach agreement on most other charges.

During a retrial on the unresolved counts that began Aug. 5, jurors heard from more than 60 witnesses. Bongiovanni did not testify at either trial.

"This was a hard fought road to justice," U.S. Attorney Trini Ross said. "But in the end we got there."

The case is part of a sex-trafficking prosecution involving the Pharaoh's Gentlemen's Club outside Buffalo. Bongiovanni was childhood friends with the strip club's owner, Peter Gerace Jr., who authorities say has close ties to both the Buffalo Mafia and the violent Outlaws Motorcycle Club. Gerace is awaiting trial on numerous charges, including that he bribed Bongiovanni. He has pleaded not guilty. □



Former DEA agent Joseph Bongiovanni arrives at the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Court House for a hearing for an upcoming trial on drug and bribery charges, June 21, 2023.

Associated Press

NATO will start an annual nuclear exercise as Russia threatens Ukraine's Western backers

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO will hold a long-planned major nuclear exercise next week, the alliance's chief said Thursday, a few weeks after President Vladimir Putin announced changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine to discourage Ukraine's Western allies from supporting attacks on his country. The "Steadfast Noon" exercise starts on Monday and will run for about two weeks. It will be led by Belgium and the Netherlands, use eight military bases and involve 2,000 personnel and 60 aircraft from 13 nations. The exercise has been held at roughly the same time each year for over a decade.

Bomber aircraft and fighter jets that can carry nuclear warheads are taking part. No live munitions are used. The bulk of the exercise is being held around 900 kilometers (560 miles) from Russia in the North Sea. Moscow has been informed about the drills, NATO officials say.

"In an uncertain world, it is vital that we test our defence and that we strengthen our defence so that our adversaries know that NATO is ready and is able to respond to any threat," new NATO Secre-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer shakes hands with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte after a meeting at 10 Downing Street in London, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

tary-General Mark Rutte told reporters in London. The United States and the U.K., with their strategic nuclear forces, are key to NATO's security deterrence.

France also has nuclear weapons but is not a part of the organization's nuclear planning group.

Angus Lapsley, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defense Policy and Planning, said the exercise is aimed at proving that the alliance's ability to counter any threat to its 32 member countries is credible and something that "any

adversary would need to take extremely seriously indeed."

Lapsley said that NATO has been monitoring the emergence of North Korea as a nuclear power, the rapid expansion of China's nuclear capabilities and developments in Iran "but obviously what worries us most is Russia."

He said Moscow has been investing in its nuclear forces "with accelerating intensity" over the last two years, and that it is "introducing lots of novel systems and putting more emphasis

on investment in short and intermediate range weapons systems."

Lapsley noted that Moscow has recently been "talking an awful lot about their nuclear doctrine and how that may or not be evolving." He said that it appears to be "a pretty clear attempt to influence us" when it comes to support for Ukraine.

Putin and other Kremlin voices have frequently threatened the West with Russia's nuclear arsenal. In a strong, new warning late last month, Putin said that

a conventional attack on Russia by any country with the support of a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack.

The threat was meant to dissuade the U.S. and its allies from allowing Ukraine to strike into Russian territory with longer-range weapons and appears to significantly lower the threshold for the possible use of Russia's nuclear arsenal. But NATO has not seen any real change in Moscow's nuclear posture.

Taking office on Oct. 1, Rutte stressed that while Putin's nuclear rhetoric was "reckless and irresponsible," there was no evidence of any imminent threat of nuclear weapons being used.

Rutte said it's important to just leave Putin to "talk about his nuclear arsenal. He wants us also to discuss his nuclear arsenal, and I think we shouldn't."

At the same time, Rutte said, giving in to any threat "would set a precedent that using military force allows a country to get what it wants, and we cannot do that." Daniel Burch, the Chief of Nuclear Operations at NATO's military headquarters, said that while dozens of aircraft are involved, a lot of the drill is happening behind the scenes. □

Indonesia arrests a suspect wanted by China for running a \$14 billion investment scam

By ANDI JATMIKO and NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's immigration officers on the tourist island of Bali have arrested a Chinese suspect sought by Beijing for helping run over \$14 billion investment scam to clients in China, officials said Thursday.

The 39-year-old man, identified only by his initial, LQ, was arrested on Oct. 1, when an immigration auto-gate in Bali's Ngurah Rai international airport denied him departure for Singapore.

The biometric data in the computer registry at the airport identified him as a suspect wanted by Beijing, which led to his arrest, according to Silmy Karim, the immigration chief at Indonesia's law and human rights ministry.

He had been listed on an Interpol warrant

since late September.

The suspect first arrived in Bali from Singapore with a Turkish passport as Joe Lin on Sept. 26, just a day before Interpol released a so-called Red Notice for him, a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to detain or arrest a suspect wanted by a specific country.

Indonesian authorities brought the suspect, wearing a detainee's orange shirt and a facemask, before reporters to a news conference Thursday in the capital of Jakarta. The suspect did not make any statements and was not asked any questions.

"He was wrong to use Indonesia as a transit country, let alone as a destination country to hide," Karim said, lauding technological advances and cooperation between immigration and the national police. □



Chinese fugitive identified only by his initial LQ wears a mask is escorted by Immigration officers before a news conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

Turkey's navy starts to evacuate its citizens from Beirut as Israel battles Hezbollah

By MEHMET GUZEL and ROBERT BADENDIECK

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Over 2,000 Turkish citizens and some foreign nationals started boarding a Turkish military ship late Wednesday that brought in aid and will take them out of a country being hit by Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah.

Zehra Cibbin, an ethnic Arab from the southeastern Turkish city of Mardin who lives in Beirut with her Lebanese husband, got off a bus packed with the other evacuees, her two children in tow and luggage in hand.

"It's indescribable. They bombed the street below our house. From that moment on, it was over for me, I said I didn't want to stay in Beirut anymore," said Cibbin, 46.

Cibbin said they decided to leave Beirut out of fear for their lives, putting no thought into what will happen when they arrive in Turkey.

She spoke to The Associated Press before getting in line to board the TCG Bayraktar amphibious landing vessel, which along with the TCG Sancaktar will take on evacuees.



Turkish citizens walk to board Turkish military ships evacuating them from Lebanon to Turkey, in Beirut port on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024.

They are part of a six-ship convoy including escorts that set sail from the southern Turkish port of Mersin early Wednesday, transported 300 tons of humanitarian supplies, including food, hygiene kits, kitchenware, tents, beds and blankets. Besides the Turkish citizens, people from Bulgaria, Romania and Kazakhstan were among those who applied to evacuate on the ships. Officials did not

provide numbers. The Associated Press was the only non-government media invited aboard the ships to cover the evacuation operation.

"Israel's aggression has severely impacted Lebanon and our brothers here," said Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Baris Ulusoy, standing in front of the Bayraktar.

"We are carrying out an operation today with two

aims: to provide humanitarian aid to our Lebanese brothers and to ensure the safe return of our citizens who are in a difficult situation," Ulusoy said.

Hundreds lined up before the Bayraktar as Turkish soldiers and sailors checked the evacuees' passports and their luggage was examined by metal detectors and drug-sniffing dogs before they were allowed to board.

Associated Press

Another Turkish citizen waiting with her family was Abir Gokcimen, who said she left her extended family and husband in Beirut and hopes the war that spread to Lebanon will end soon. She hopes to come back to Lebanon as soon as the danger passes.

The journey back to Mersin is expected to take about 10 hours.

Turkey's government plans to organize more sea evacuations if necessary and is contemplating charter flights to repatriate citizens. Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran, and Hezbollah says its attacks are aimed at aiding the Palestinians. Israel has carried out airstrikes in response and the conflict steadily escalated, erupting into a full-fledged war last month.

Israel has inflicted a punishing wave of blows against Hezbollah in recent weeks and says it will keep fighting until tens of thousands of displaced Israeli citizens can return to their homes in the north. □

The death toll in a gang attack on a Haitian town rises to at least 115

By EVENS SANON and PIERRE-RICHARD LUXAMA

Associated Press

PONT-SONDÉ, Haiti (AP) — The death toll in a brutal gang attack last week on a small town in central Haiti has risen to 115, a local official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The attack on residents of Pont-Sondé on Oct. 3 was one of the biggest massacres that Haiti has seen in recent history.

Myriam Fièvre, mayor of the nearby city of Saint-Marc, said Wednesday that the toll had risen to 115 and would likely keep rising because authorities are still looking for bodies and haven't been able to

access certain areas of the town. "We are working to make sure that the population is protected," she said in a phone interview.

The U.N. had previously said that at least 70 people were killed last week when the Gran Grif gang invaded the town in the central



People raise their arms while walking past a police station in Pont-Sondé, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, days after a gang attacked the town.

Associated Press

Artibonite region.

The victims included babies, young mothers and the elderly, with the gang approaching Pont-Sondé via canoes to catch residents by surprise, according to a local human rights group. Survivors have questioned why authorities did not do anything to stop the attack since the gang had warned in a video posted on social media that it planned to target Pont-Sondé.

A day after the attack, officials replaced the police commissioner who oversees the Artibonite region, which has seen a surge of gang violence in recent years, with at least 20 crimi-

nal groups operating in the area, according to the U.N. More than 6,200 survivors have fled Pont-Sondé and temporarily settled in the coastal city of Saint-Marc and surrounding areas.

A majority of them are staying with relatives, but more than 750 others have nowhere to go and are sleeping on the floors of a church, a school and a public plaza in Saint-Marc, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration.

As Saint-Marc struggles with the sudden influx of people, Fièvre warned that the Gran Grif gang is infiltrating nearby communities after attacking Pont-Sondé. □



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Origin of Papiamento- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamento, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Pa-

piamento directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamento, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamento), in fact, this is not true. Papiamento is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamansa, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two

releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese fiefdoms on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quincentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of



the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillians and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamento, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portu-

guese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galician-Duriense or Galician-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

Lessons from our elders:

Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from

low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

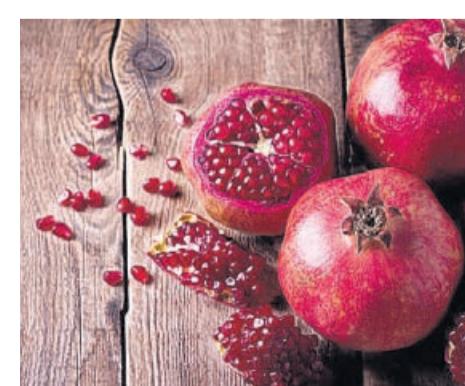
Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a

few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamento. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or

Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several

stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per

week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color

of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others.

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Charles Sanchez from New York City.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is PARADISE. Visiting here since the 1970's. Love the Happy Island and lovely people."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Gerald Schneider.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is returning home to familiarity, the sounds of the ocean and birds, the scent of suntan lotion and a cold piña colada...the locals greeting us by name. It is where we celebrate life's special moments. Aruba to me is love"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila



Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



The Baby Natural Bridge

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



Current state of the Natural Bridge



The Natural Bridge pre-collapse



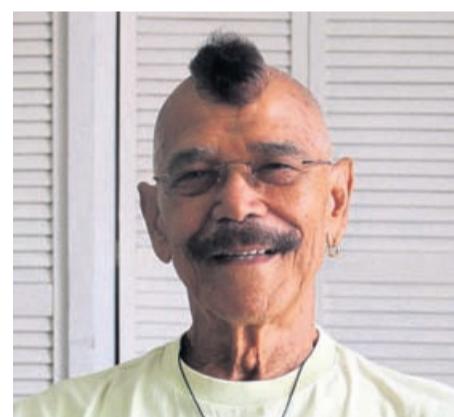
A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work.



It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according

to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down

pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

Snakes you may encounter on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents and visitors.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under

bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream



colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves

around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly.

Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



CROSSWORD

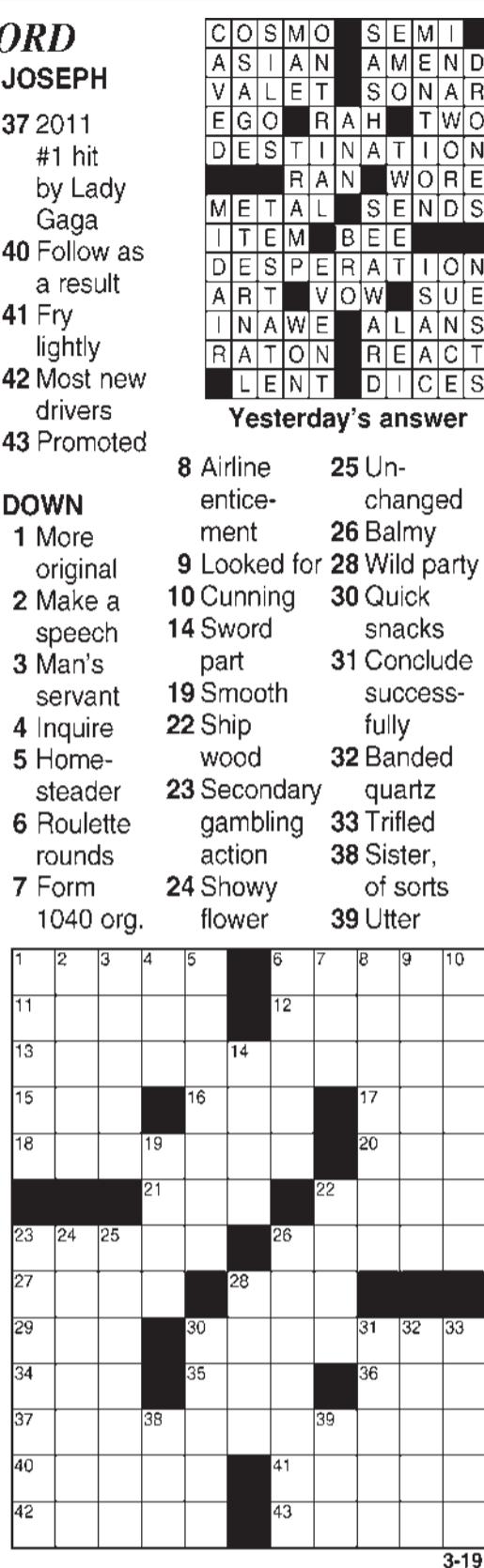
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

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- 6 Miser Marner
- 11 Make blank
- 12 Move with stealth
- 13 1977 Top 10 hit by Aerosmith
- 15 Seine summer
- 16 Light metal
- 17 Shark feature
- 18 Passes on, as a story
- 20 Snacked
- 21 Horse healer
- 22 "— bien!"
- 23 More rational
- 26 Garden pests
- 27 A party to
- 28 Sheep sound
- 29 Lawn coating
- 30 Speaks brusquely to
- 34 Angsty rock
- 35 Belief, in brief
- 36 Freud topic

DOWN

- 1 More original
- 2 Make a speech
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- 4 Inquire
- 5 Home-steader
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- 8 Airline
- 9 Looked for
- 10 Cunning
- 11 More original
- 12 Ship
- 13 Smooth
- 14 Sword part
- 15 Man's servant
- 16 Wild party
- 17 Quick snacks
- 18 Conclude
- 19 Wild party
- 20 Quick snacks
- 21 Conclude
- 22 Banded
- 23 Quartz
- 24 Sister, of sorts
- 25 Utter
- 26 Trifled
- 27 Sister, of sorts
- 28 Showy flower
- 29 Trifled
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AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

B O D F P Q F B P Z Y H D C ' B I Z X U J

B Z X F P Q , " W C Y ' B O Z D Y X ! "

— DUGFP IFWWFZLB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORGIVE OTHERS, NOT BECAUSE THEY DESERVE FORGIVENESS, BUT BECAUSE YOU DESERVE PEACE. — JONATHAN LOCKWOOD HUIK

Cruise ship Schedule: October 01 - 13 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	01	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C 1
THU	03	WORLD EXPLORER	08.00	23.59	C 1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -
TUE	08	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B 1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

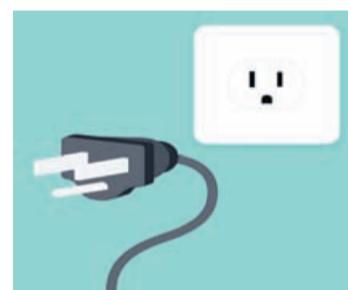
lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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TD Bank to pay \$3 billion in historic money-laundering settlement with the Justice Department

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — TD Bank will pay approximately \$3 billion in a historic settlement with U.S. authorities who said Thursday that the financial institution's lax practices allowed significant money laundering over multiple years.

Canada-based TD Bank pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering, the largest bank in U.S. history to do so, Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

"TD Bank created an environment that allowed financial crime to flourish," Garland said. "By making its services convenient for criminals, it became one." High-level executives were alerted to serious problems with the bank's anti-money laundering program, but failed to correct them as employees openly joked about how easy it seemed to be for criminals to launder money there, Garland said.

The bank is the 10th largest in the United States, and its CEO said the company takes full responsibility and has been cooperating with the investigation. It's been taking steps to fix its U.S. anti-money laundering program, including appointing new leadership and adding hundreds of new specialists, said TD Bank Group CEO Bharat Masrani.

"We know what the issues are, we are fixing them. As we move forward, we're ensuring that this never happens again," Masrani said. "And I'm 100% confident that we get to the other side and emerge even stronger."

The Justice Department said the bank allowed at least three different money laundering networks to move a total of \$670 million through TD Bank accounts over a period of several years.

The institution became the bank of choice for multiple criminals and money laundering organizations, authorities said.

"From fentanyl and narcotics trafficking, to terrorist financing and human traf-



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during a news conference to announce that TD Bank will pay an approximately \$3 billion settlement after authorities say the financial institution's lax practices allowed for significant money laundering, at the Department of Justice, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Washington.

ficking, TD Bank's chronic failures provided fertile ground for a host of illicit activity to penetrate our financial system," said Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo.

In one case, a man moved more than \$470 million in drug proceeds and other illicit funds through TD Bank branches, bribing employees with more than \$57,000 in gift cards.

He chose TD Bank because it had the "most permissive policies," more than once depositing more than \$1 million in cash in a single

day and then moving the funds out of the bank with checks or wire transfers, Garland said. It continued despite employees expressing concern about what he was doing.

There were also piles of cash dumped on a bank's counters and ATM withdrawals that totaled 40 times to 50 times higher than the daily limits, said Philip Sellinger, U.S. attorney in New Jersey. In a separate scheme, five employees worked with criminal organizations to open and maintain accounts that were used to

launder \$39 million to Colombia, including drug proceeds, Garland said. □

ARUBA TODAY

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Downtown

OMG, Grimace and a playoff pumpkin: Close-knit Mets ride camaraderie and good-luck charms into NLCS

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — OMG! Look who's headed to the National League Championship Series.

From their playoff pumpkin to the purple Grimace seat and that catchy pop song by infielder Jose Iglesias, the merry New York Mets are riding a wave of good-luck charms and infectious camaraderie to unexpected October success. "Through all the craziness, madness, and ups and downs, this game is, at the end of the day, it's supposed to be fun," first baseman Pete Alonso said. "What's the point if you're not having fun? That's a part of the culture here."

"We're not afraid to embrace the fun part of the game. It's not just business. The game is a lot more than just trying to win or lose. You're trying to enjoy the ride with the group that you're with."

Alonso jumped right into the fray in late September when he and his wife scooped up his small "playoff pumpkin," as he called it, while visiting a Wisconsin farm when the Mets were playing the Brewers.

The lucky squash was on display during a wild clubhouse celebration in Milwaukee last week following the All-Star



New York Mets second baseman Jose Iglesias celebrates on the field after the Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 4 of the National League baseball playoff series, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, in New York.

slugger's go-ahead homer in the ninth inning that saved New York's season in the Wild Card Series clincher.

Next, the wild-card Mets took down rival Philadelphia in their Division Series to reach the NLCS for the first time in nine years eliciting tears and raw emotions Wednesday night from longtime outfielder Brandon Nimmo, rookie manager Carlos Mendoza and other members of a close-knit team as they choked up a bit when de-

scribing it all.

They'll face the San Diego Padres or Los Angeles Dodgers in a best-of-seven set beginning Sunday on the West Coast.

Quite a surprise for a New York team that opened 22-33 in what was supposed to be a transition season under Mendoza and first-year president of baseball operations David Stearns, who grew up a Mets fan in Manhattan. But it's hardly just Alonso having all this fun.

After home runs, smiling Mets players pose in the dugout for group photos holding a blue and orange "OMG" sign team colors, of course in a nod to the name of Iglesias' hit song as it plays over the Citi Field sound system. "Right now the Mets are playing really good baseball. They're hot," Phillies outfielder Nick Castellanos said. "From watching them play in the beginning of the year, in April and May, and watching Jose Iglesias be

Associated Press

able to, I don't know, unify them, and get the city to buy into something bigger, is nothing short of incredible."

In that same vein, the starting pitchers have taken to wearing entirely unnecessary eye black when not on the mound and writing on it the uniform number of that day's starter to show unity and support.

"Just another good-luck charm, I guess," Sean Manaea said Monday before beating the Phillies with a Game 3 gem the following day. "I don't know. It just started last week in Atlanta. The last week has been crazy so we've just been sticking with it."

And when a starter comes out of the game after a solid outing, they all gather in a rugby huddle on the bench to jump up and down, arms wrapped around each other.

"We're just feeding off each other and just having a fun time doing it," Manaea said. Dugout props for celebrating homers — things like rubber swords or funny hats — have exploded across MLB the past few seasons. But there's no doubt, the Mets lead the league in silly bits and inside jokes. Center fielder Harrison Bader recently referred to the team as a "traveling circus." □

HISA, Jockeys' Guild partner with mental-health company to offer jockeys access to care and support



Artislas and jockey Relu Gutierrez, right, that finished first and was disqualified and placed third, make Iron Man Cal and Antonio Fresu, middle, the winner while Sabertooth and Kazushi Kimura, left, moved up to second in the Grade III, \$100,000 Zuma Beach Stakes, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, at Santa Anita Park, in Arcadia, Calif.

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Horse racing's federal oversight agency and the Jockeys' Guild are collaborating on an initiative to support jockeys' well-being with access to mental-health care.

The Guild and Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) have partnered with mental-health company Onrise to provide care for jockeys in their native languages. Jockeys can access therapists, psychiatrists and trained retired athletes for support, a Thursday release stated, and help create openness and reduce stigma within horse racing.

The initiative was announced during a three-day conference on jockey concussions, safety and wellness. Services are free for eligible and qualified jockeys, the release added. HISA CEO Lisa Lazarus cited the physical and mental demands on jockeys that she called critical to their long-

term success and well-being. The partnership provides jockeys "with a safe space to connect with professional athlete peers who understand their experiences," and offers support for handling the pressures of a demanding career.

Guild president and CEO Terry Meyocks said his organization was proud to partner with HISA and Onrise on a resource for jockey mental wellness. Citing the Guild's longtime advocacy for jockey safety and wellness, he said the initiative marks another important step in that mission and helps them "take care of their health in a way that has never been done before in our sport."

Onrise works with organizations including the MLS Players Association, U.S. Women's National Team Players Association and all three U.S. women's professional volleyball leagues. □

22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal will retire from tennis after next month's Davis Cup finals

By TALES AZZONI and

HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal is retiring from professional tennis at age 38, he announced Thursday, after winning 22 Grand Slam titles 14 at the French Open during an unprecedented era he shared with rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Nadal has competed infrequently the past two seasons because of injuries and said next month's Davis Cup finals will mark his farewell to the sport. He had hip surgery in 2023 and entered just two of the past eight major tournaments.

"The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two, especially. I don't think I have been able to play without limitations," Nadal said in a video message. "It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end."

Nadal's unrelenting, physical style of play every point pursued as though it were his last, sprinting and sliding into place for that high-bouncing bullwhip of a lefty forehand made him one of the greats of the game and the unquestioned King of Clay.

His record 14 French Open championships are more than anyone, man or woman, won at any one of the four major tournaments, a dominance celebrated by a statue of Nadal near



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his victory over Marton Fucsovics of Hungary during the men's singles tennis competition, at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Paris, France, as he has announced he will retire from tennis at age 38 following the Davis Cup finals in November.

Associated Press

the main entrance to the grounds of Roland Garros and in the shadow of its main stadium, Court Philippe Chatrier. In a result that symbolized where things stood for his body, and career, he exited in the French Open first round this year, a straight-set loss to eventual runner-up Alexander Zverev.

Nadal returned to that site in southwest Paris for the Summer Olympics, where he lost to old rival Djokovic in the second round of singles and reached the quarterfinals of men's doubles with Carlos Alcaraz. Nadal hasn't played since. His goodbye will also

come while representing Spain in the Davis Cup at Malaga.

"Your legacy won't be matched," Alcaraz, who is widely seen as Nadal's heir in Spanish tennis, said Thursday. "I have enjoyed you and I will miss you very much when you retire after the Davis Cup."

Soccer greats Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappé were among stars from the sports world also paying tribute to Nadal.

In addition to his French Open triumphs, Nadal won four trophies at the U.S. Open and two apiece at Wim-

bledon and the Australian Open, giving him a career Grand Slam.

"It is the appropriate time to put an end to a career that has been long and much more successful than I could have ever imagined," Nadal said.

His last pair of major titles arrived in 2022, at Melbourne and Paris, pushing him ahead of Federer, who held the men's record of 20 Grand Slam titles when he announced his retirement at age 41. Federer bid adieu in late 2022 by teaming with Nadal in a doubles match at the Laver Cup.

Both have since been surpassed by Djokovic, 37, who is up to 24 majors.

So much of Nadal's success was seen, fairly or not, through the prism of his encounters with Federer and Djokovic. The tennis world, and plenty outside of it, were consumed with the debate over which was most deserving of the "GOAT" "Greatest Of All-Time" moniker. The world, tennis or otherwise, was fascinated by their matchups, their differing styles and personalities.

Who among those who witnessed it could possibly forget Nadal vs. Federer in the 2008 Wimbledon final? Or Nadal vs. Djokovic in the 2022 French Open quarterfinals? Or Nadal vs. Djokovic in the 2012 Australian Open final? And so on.

Nadal played Djokovic 60 times, a record for two men in the Open era; Djokovic leads 31-29 overall, while Nadal leads 5-4 in Slam finals.

"You have inspired millions of children to start playing tennis and I think that's probably (the) greatest achievement anyone can wish for," Novak Djokovic said on Instagram.

"Your tenacity, dedication, fighting spirit is going to be taught for decades. Your legacy will live forever ... Thank you for pushing me to the very limit so many times in our rivalry that has impacted me the most as a player."

Nadal met Federer 40 times; Nadal led 24-16 overall, including 6-3 in Slam finals. □

Giants' Malik Nabers does not advance to next step in concussion protocol

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— New York Giants rookie receiver Malik Nabers did not advance to the next step in the NFL's concussion protocol, diminishing his chances of playing against Cincinnati on Sunday night. Nabers remained in the third stage in the five-step protocol on Thursday, meaning he was allowed on the field for stretching and to work with trainers away from practice.

Coach Brian Daboll said it's the same spot the No. 6 overall pick in the draft was on Wednesday.

To be ready to play the Bengals (1-4) at MetLife Stadium, Nabers must take part in a non-contact practice and then be cleared by both a team doctor and an independent neurologist.

Nabers was hurt late in the Giants' loss to Dallas on Sept. 26. He missed last Sunday's win at Seattle, but he still leads the NFL with 35

receptions.

Veteran Darius Slayton led the Giants against the Seahawks with eight catches for 122 yards and a touchdown.

The Giants also started using rookie tight end Theo Johnson more. The fourth-round pick from Penn State had five receptions for 48 yards. He had three in the first four games.

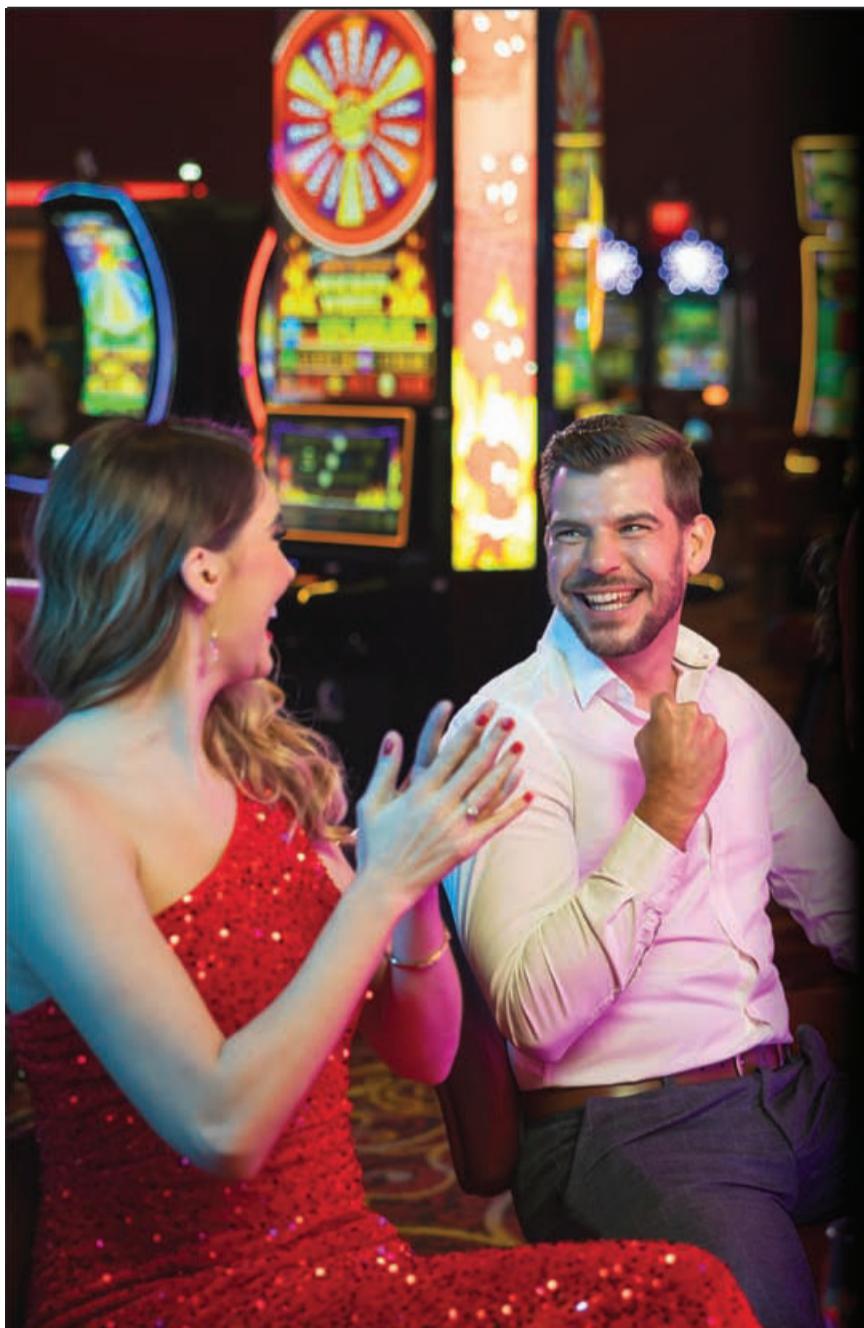
"I want to be able to contribute in the passing game any way I can," Johnson said Thursday after prac-



New York Giants wide receiver Malik Nabers (1) is helped off the field after an injury during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

tice. "So it's good to add a little bit more value to the offense this week in that respect." □



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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

**Anticipating the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba
The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba reveals their mega campaign for 2024:
WIN A MERCEDES-BENZ G-CLASS 2024!**

Since 2019 The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has been known for its thrilling giveaways like the Ferrari giveaway, Mega Win campaigns with the most attractive cash prizes, exotic vacations and many more. This year, as they are preparing for the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, they are giving away a Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024!

All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits.

Players can start to accumulate points as of April 12th till November 22nd, to receive raffle tickets in order to participate. Players can earn their raffle tickets as follows:

- Every 300 points on slot machines / \$150 of theoretical win on tables = 1 raffle ticket.
- Every check of \$150 at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak and Divi Lounge = 1 raffle ticket

There will be 50 finalists competing in the grand finale on November 22nd to be the lucky winner of the

Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024! There are four ways to become a finalist:

- Weekly Drawings (every Saturday with \$12,000 in prizes): selecting 31 finalists
- Golden Key on November 16th: selecting 2 finalists
- Top Player's Race on November 21st: selecting 9 finalists
- Last Chance Drawing on November 22nd: selecting 8 finalists

This campaign has gathered local and international attention as this is the second time that The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba raffles a high-end luxury car in the Caribbean region and gives their players the opportunity to win this unique car.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024 has a boxy exterior, which is its iconic charm, in addition to making a striking visual statement for its bold black exterior and lavish red interior. Once inside, you will find all the Mercedes-Benz luxury hallmarks, including red leather comfort seats and Burmester surround system which consists of 15 loudspeakers. You will find everything that you are looking for in a car with this Luxury Wagon: refinement, comfort and performance of a turbo-charged V8 engine. This luxury vehicle offers an unique experience and one player will be the lucky winner on November 22nd.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is very proud to bring this car to the island in anticipation of the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton and St. Regis brand.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba offers high quality service and offers a unique and memorable experience. For more participation details of the Luxury Wagon Campaign 2024, please visit The Casino VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba or contact 527-2276/ 527-2277 and they will be happy to assist you with further details on how to participate and WIN! □